

Report of Observation of Fred Lux During Stay at Scorpion Dating From the 9th of December to 18th, 1895.

December 9, 1895:

On the descent nearing Scorpion I find a good deal of drywood, which with a small rigged sleigh could easily be hauled to the house. I also observe that the gum tree groves are badly choked with limbs that should be cut. It would not only improve the tree, but would make firewood for a long period. In riding through the plowed field it looked as if the seeding was well done. The men in the field were leveling ravines to make it passable for horses. Much of this work done by the men with pick and shovel ought to be done with the plow and scraper. Examined the fence around Campo Granada which seemed in fairly good condition, but will soon require to be strengthened, as the rush has in part destroyed the iron bars.

At the trasquila at Scorpion I find sixteen sacks of wool. Also a lot of pelts that should be sent to La Playa. I suggested that the haypress which is out in the yard be placed under cover (this has since been done). I examined the ground at southeast corner of the beach, and find that at no time of the year does the water from the ocean rise that high, making it perfectly safe for a ware-house should one be needed.

The water conveniences are ample, without increasing the pumping facilities at extra expense. It may at times require a little pumping, but the cook and the man that does the milking (Passamonti) ought, when required, perform that work. The plowing is progressing favorably and the repairs done by the blacksmith answered a good purpose.

December 10, 1895:

Took the trail along the ocean from Scorpion to Smuggler. The sheep on the potrero look better than the feed would (suggest?) (Two?) of the adjoining fields were opened to them today that they could get the benefit of better feed. It is a pity water cannot be obtained in some of these fields. I looked at a place where it may be possible to find water at a short depth. It would be worth trying at least.

Two of the zacaterias at Smuggler are full, and one is one-fourth full. Every thing appeared in about the same condition as last year, excepting that the barn has been braced on the inside with heavy poles which makes it firm against the wind.

The same suggestion was made here to Perrini to keep the cart and tools out of the sun and rain-as was made to him about the wagons at Scorpion.

The wagons at Scorpion need painting to keep them in repair. A shed could be constructed out of the lumber from the blown down zacaterias for the shelter of the wagons near the rock in the yard north of the trasquila.

In addition to sharpening the plow points, the blacksmith pointed picks and crowbars, oar locks for the small boat, and an oval hinge for the bow of the launch to hold the rope in place when going to and from the Schooner.

Plowing in the field steadily-outside of the interruption when Perrini thought he sighted the Schooner which was making direct for Scorpion harbor. Not to delay the captain when he arrived, a load of hay was brought to the beach, but to our great disgust, it did not prove to be her (the schooner).

December 12, 1895:

Plowing and work in the field continued. The blacksmith tofday was employed shoeing horses and sharpening drills and plow points.

December 13, 1895:

Went to Smuggler with the blacksmith to get the little coal that was there to be able to finish the odd jobs that were required to be done in addition to the constant attention to keep plowpoints in repair.

December 15-18, 1895:

Hauled hay to barn and manure in field, shelled corn, repaired stable and cleaned yards. On the afternoon of the 18th returned to Main Ranch.